



चिकित्सा अधिकारी (दंत) / डेंटल सर्जन (राजस्थान)

The Medical Officer (Dental) — commonly called the Dental Surgeon — is the post in the Rajasthan Medical & Health Service to which a dentist with a BDS is appointed. The work covers examination of the teeth and mouth, treating...



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करियर मार्गदर्शन कार्यशाला, डाइट बाड़मेर (14-17 जुलाई 2026) में विकसित व लोकार्पित
Developed & unveiled at the Career Guidance Workshop, DIET Barmer (14-17 July 2026)

यह एक स्वतंत्र परियोजना है, जो सरकार की आधिकारिक करियर-मार्गदर्शन सामग्री पर आधारित है। • An independent project based on the Government's official career-guidance content.

1 About this career

The Medical Officer (Dental) — commonly called the Dental Surgeon — is the post in the Rajasthan Medical & Health Service to which a dentist with a BDS is appointed. The work covers examination of the teeth and mouth, treating decay, infection and gum disease, extractions, fillings, root canals and prosthetics, early screening for oral cancer, and oral health camps and awareness in schools and the community. Its importance in rural Rajasthan is of a particular kind: dental treatment tends to be postponed until the pain is unbearable, and the dentist at a government hospital is the only affordable option for many, private dentistry being expensive. One thing about this post is recorded here deliberately: in the service rules its name is not "Dental Surgeon" but "Medical Officer (Dental)" — and that difference in name is why searching for the post usually fails to find it.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	BDS (Service Rules 1963, Schedule, Junior Posts serial 13)
Recruiting body	Medical & Health Department, Rajasthan — the recruiting arrangement has varied by cycle; see the advertisement
Age limit	22 to 45 years, reckoned on the 1st of January following the last date for applications (Service Rules 1963) — the upper limit is relaxed for reserved categories and for women (detail below)
Starting salary	The pay matrix level is not given in the service rules — see the advertisement
Demand	100% by direct recruitment — nobody reaches this post by promotion

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- An interest in dentistry and in fine work done by hand
- Public health and preventive care
- Direct engagement with patients and putting them at ease

ABILITIES

- Steady hands and fine motor control
- Planning treatment with limited resources
- The patience to manage a patient's fear — in dentistry that is a daily task

KEY SKILLS

- Dental diagnosis and treatment planning
- Root canal treatment and prosthetics
- Early detection of oral cancer — important in areas where tobacco use is common
- Infection control and sterilisation of instruments
- Fillings, extractions and surgical procedures
- Gum disease and oral hygiene
- School and community oral health programmes

4 How to get there

- 1 Pass Class 12 with science — physics, chemistry and biology.
- 2 Clear NEET and take admission to BDS. It is a five-year course including a compulsory one-year internship. Admission is through the same NEET that leads to MBBS, so it is a clear option for students who sit NEET but do not reach an MBBS seat.
- 3 After the BDS, register with the Rajasthan Dental Council or the Dental Council of India. Practising dentistry is not lawful without registration.
- 4 Your age must be between 22 and 45. The upper limit of 45 means the door stays open to dentists who did an MDS first or spent some years in private practice.
- 5 Read the advertisement carefully — the recruiting arrangement for this cadre has not been the same in every cycle, and note that the post is advertised as "Medical Officer (Dental)" and not as "Dental Surgeon".

- 6 If you intend to specialise later, the NEET-MDS route stays open and can be considered alongside service.

MAIN EXAMS

- In the Schedule this post sits at serial 13 among the junior posts and is filled 100% by direct recruitment; the qualification is simply BDS — no additional condition, experience or postgraduate degree. It mirrors the post immediately above it, Medical Officer with MBBS.
- The age limit is 22 to 45, the same as for the MBBS post. The minimum of 22 exists because a BDS with internship takes five years; the maximum of 45 is five years above most Rajasthan posts.
- Serials 14 and 15 in the same Schedule carry two further posts this project did not previously know of — Food Analyst and Clinical Psychologist. They are different posts, but they sit in the same Schedule, which shows why reading a rule Schedule is more useful than searching advertisements.
- This page deliberately carries both forms of the name, and the reason is worth recording. This project searched for the post as "Dental Surgeon" for weeks, did not find it, and on 19 August recorded it as absent. In the service rules its name is "Medical Officer (Dental)" and it was sitting in the same Schedule directly below the MBBS post. A BDS student needs to know this, because the advertisement uses that name too.
- One practical comparison helps in understanding this post: government dental posts in the state are far fewer than MBBS ones, because not every primary health centre carries a dentist. So the cadre is small and recruitment comes round less often. On the other side, fewer people hold a BDS than an MBBS, so the ratio of competition is not as lopsided as the number of posts alone suggests.
- Note — this post is not in the Schedules to the CET Rules 2022, so a CET score is not required for it.

- Relaxation in the upper age limit — 5 years for male candidates of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, More Backward Classes and Economically Weaker Sections; 5 years for women candidates of the General category; and 10 years for women candidates of those same categories. Which means plainly that the bare figure printed against a post understates a reserved-category woman's eligibility by a decade — if you are in that category, work out your eligibility only after adding the relaxation. In Rajasthan, 30% of the posts in direct recruitment are reserved category-wise for women candidates. Widows and divorced women have no upper age limit at all — the rules say it in those words. It is Rule 13(9) of the Rajasthan State and Subordinate Services (Direct Recruitment by Combined Competitive Examination) Rules 1999, it appears again as the same proviso in the Rajasthan Medical & Health Subordinate Service Rules, and RPSC advertisements reproduce it. A widow must furnish a certificate of the death of her husband from the competent authority, and a divorced woman the proof of divorce. The exact terms of relaxation and reservation are given in that recruitment's own advertisement.

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- Government Dental College and Hospital, Jaipur — Jaipur, Rajasthan (<https://rajswasthya.rajasthan.gov.in>)
- Rajasthan University of Health Sciences — the affiliating university for dental colleges — Jaipur, Rajasthan (<https://www.ruhsraj.org/>)
- Government dental colleges elsewhere in India, reachable through NEET counselling — Across the country
- Government senior secondary schools — Class 12 with biology — In every block

ONLINE

- चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य विभाग, राजस्थान — This is the department the post belongs to (<https://rajswasthya.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- Dental Council of India — recognised colleges and registration — The official source for recognition and registration (<https://dciindia.gov.in/>)
- NEET — the entrance for BDS as well as MBBS — National Testing Agency (<https://neet.nta.nic.in/>)
- National Oral Health Programme — Government of India (<https://mohfw.gov.in>)
- आर.एस.एस.बी. — पिछले प्रश्न-पत्र, उत्तर कुंजी व पाठ्यक्रम (निःशुल्क) — The Staff Selection Board's own site — the most reliable free preparation material there is (https://rsmssb.rajasthan.gov.in/show_archived?menuName=Xj4lCb9vGxpQnfls%2FxlZ2g%3D%3D)
- विभागीय सेवा नियम (कार्मिक विभाग) — पद की योग्यता व आयु मूल दस्तावेज़ में पढ़ें — The Department of Personnel publishes the service rules for every cadre. Read these before any coaching material — qualification, age and the method of recruitment are settled here and nowhere else. (<https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- स्वयं (SWAYAM) — भारत सरकार के निःशुल्क ऑनलाइन कोर्स — Free (<https://swayam.gov.in/>)
- राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल पुस्तकालय (NDLI) — Free books and study material (<https://ndli.iitkgp.ac.in/>)
- एन.सी.ई.आर.टी. — निःशुल्क पाठ्यपुस्तकें — The foundation for general knowledge, maths and science (<https://ncert.nic.in/>)

FEES

Here too the largest decision is government versus private college, and in dentistry that question matters particularly. A BDS at a government dental college costs comparatively little, while private colleges charge several times more — and since early earnings after a BDS are often lower than after an MBBS, repaying a private-fee loan takes a long time. That calculation should be done honestly before admission. When choosing a college, check Dental Council of India recognition, because both registration and eligibility depend on it. State scholarships and schemes such as Anuprati apply. One further practical point: after a BDS this government post is not the only option — private practice, an MDS, work in dental hospitals and public health programmes all stay open.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Mukhyamantri Anuprati Coaching Yojana (free coaching, apply via SSO) (<https://sso.rajasthan.gov.in/signin>)
- Rajasthan Social Justice and Empowerment Dept scholarships (<https://sje.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- National Scholarship Portal (NSP) (<https://scholarships.gov.in/>)
- Buddy4Study scholarship search (<https://www.buddy4study.com>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

The dental units of community health centres and of sub-district and district hospitals, and oral health camps in schools and the community. A dental post does not exist at every primary health centre, so postings are usually at the levels above it.

WORK CULTURE

Dental work is physically demanding and that is rarely said — hours bent forward, with steady hands, working in a small space, and after years it tells on the neck and back; so attention to posture and to how the equipment is arranged is part of the profession. Patient fear is the other constant: many people come to a dentist only when the pain has become unbearable, and they arrive frightened — putting them at ease is as necessary as the treatment, and that skill does not come from a book. In government service resources are limited and patient numbers high, so treatment has to be planned around what is available. What is given in return is plain: in an area where private dentistry is beyond most people's reach, the government dentist is the only accessible relief from pain and infection. In places where tobacco use is common, early detection of oral cancer becomes this post's most valuable contribution, because caught in time it saves a life.

WHO HIRES

- Medical & Health Department, Rajasthan — dental units
- Community health centres and district hospitals
- Activities under the National Oral Health Programme
- Government dental colleges and attached hospitals, under separate service rules

DEMAND (2026)

Oral health was neglected in India for a long time and has received more attention under the National Oral Health Programme, so the need for government dentists persists. The cadre is nonetheless clearly small and that should not be understated: a dental post does not exist at every primary health centre, so the total number of posts is far below that of MBBS Medical Officers and recruitment comes round less often. The other side is that fewer people hold a BDS than an MBBS, so the ratio of competition is less lopsided than it appears. The honest advice when planning is not to take a BDS for this government post alone — the degree also works in private practice, in an MDS, in dental hospitals and in public health programmes, and the government post is one option among those rather than a sole target. The number of posts describes the department's requirement, not your chances of selection. One thing to be clear about — the "demand" described above counts posts, not your chance of getting one. Selection is by open competition and the number of applicants runs to many times the number of posts, so most candidates are not selected in any given recruitment. That is not an argument against this career; it is an argument against making it your only plan. Keep studying or building a skill alongside your preparation, so that the year is not lost whichever way the result goes.

7 Career growth

- 1 Medical Officer (Dental) — the entry post, 100% direct recruitment, qualification BDS
- 2 Senior Medical Officer (Dental) — by promotion
- 3 Senior posts in dental services at district and divisional level
- 4 An MDS opens a separate route as a specialist and into teaching at dental colleges

EARNINGS

Starting	विज्ञप्ति में घोषित पे मैट्रिक्स स्तर के अनुसार
Mid level	₹85,000 – ₹1,15,000 (भत्तों सहित, वरिष्ठ स्तर पर)
Senior level	₹1,30,000 से अधिक (भत्तों सहित, वरिष्ठ एवं प्रशासनिक स्तर पर)

The 1963 service rules do not give a pay matrix level for this post, so no starting figure is printed on this page — it will be in that cycle's advertisement. The mid-level and senior figures above are approximate and are not confirmed from any official document. One comparison should be made honestly: early income in private dental practice is often uncertain and low, particularly in smaller towns, whereas this post carries a regular salary and security of service from the first day — and in dentistry that difference is felt more sharply than in medicine. The starting figure is BASIC PAY, so that it can be compared directly against other careers. Dearness allowance (60% of basic since 1 January 2026) and house rent allowance are added on top of it, so take-home pay is appreciably higher. The mid-level and senior figures are approximate monthly income including allowances, not basic pay. Note — in Rajasthan a direct recruit is a probationer-trainee for the first 2 years and is paid a fixed remuneration, not the pay scale; dearness allowance and house rent allowance are not payable in those two years (Rajasthan Service Rules, rule 7(30A)). The full pay scale applies once probation is completed. The pay matrix level for this post could not be confirmed on this page from an official document — it is not in the service rules and not in the CET Rules 2022 schedule. No level is therefore stated here. The correct figure is printed in the official advertisement for the recruitment; check it there before applying. The figures above rest on the Rajasthan 7th pay matrix, which is what applies as of 17 August 2026. The Terms of Reference of the 8th Central Pay Commission were approved on 28 October 2025 and it must report within 18 months of its constitution. State governments normally adopt a Central Pay Commission with modifications, and later than the Centre does — so Rajasthan pay will be revised too, though by how much and when is not yet settled.

8 The good parts · The challenges

The good parts

- The qualification is simply BDS — no additional condition or experience required
- An age limit of 45, so the door stays open after an MDS or private practice
- A regular salary against the uncertain early income of private practice
- Fewer BDS holders means the competition ratio is less lopsided than it looks
- Serving where private dentistry is beyond most people's reach

The challenges

- A small cadre — a dental post does not exist at every primary health centre
- Recruitment comes round less often than for MBBS posts
- Physically demanding work, telling on the neck and back over the years
- Limited resources in government service, so treatment is constrained by what is available
- The post is not found under the name Dental Surgeon — the advertisement uses Medical Officer (Dental)

9 Sources & further reading

1. Department of Personnel, Rajasthan — Rajasthan Medical & Health Service Rules, 1963 — https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/writereaddata/modulCategory/202312050451522144998Medical1963_merged.pdf
2. Medical & Health Department, Rajasthan — <https://rajswasthya.rajasthan.gov.in/>
3. Dental Council of India — <https://dciindia.gov.in/>

4. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India — the National Oral Health Programme sits under it — <https://mohfw.gov.in>
5. Rajasthan Staff Selection Board (official) — <https://rssb.rajasthan.gov.in/>
6. Department of Personnel, Rajasthan — service rules — <https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/>
7. 8th Central Pay Commission — Cabinet approval of the Terms of Reference (PIB, 28 October 2025) — <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2183289>

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